Message Text

SECRET

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73

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 161458Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6504

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

SECRETCAIRO 9183

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: FAHMY VERSION OF MADRID INCIDENT

- 1. AMBASSADOR FOUND FONMIN FAHMY IN SELF SATISFIED MOOD OVER WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS HIS VIRTUALLY SINGLE-HANDED ROLE IN BRING IN SATISFACTORY END THE MADRID INCIDENT PREVIOUS DAY. EGYPTAN AMBASSADOR ABD AL-GHAFFAR IS NOW BACK IN MADRID.
- 2. ACCORDING TO FAHMY, IT WAS NOT ONLY PRESIDENT SADAT'S FIRM DENUNCIATION LAST NIGHT OF ATTACK ON EGYPTIAN EMBASSY IN MADRID WHICH SOLVED THE PROBLEM. RATHER, IT WAS FAHMY'S FIRM DIRECT TALK TO ARAFAT AND IRAQIS. FAHMY SAID HE CALLED ARAFAT IN BEIRUT AND TOLD HIM IF HE DIDN'T CALL HIS GOONS OFF THE CONSEQUENCES FOR PALESTINIAN INTEREST WOULD BE GRAVES. ARAFAT, FAHMY SAYS, REPLIED TERRORISTS WERE NOT RPT NOT FROM PLO BUT FROM ALF (CONTROLLED FROM BAGHDAD). FAHMY THEN GOT IRAQI AMBASSADOR IN MADRID ON ANOTHER LINE AND ASKED HIM FOR ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION OF TERRORISTS. WHEN IRAQI AMBASSADOR SAID THEY WERE FROM PLO, FAHMY SAYS HE REPLIED THAT ARAFAT WAS ON ANOTHER LINE AND WAS SECRET

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SAYING THAT THEY WERE FROM ALF, AND IN ANY CASE IF THE IRAQI

AMBASSADOR DID NOT GET MOVING IMMEDIATELY TO FREE EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS, SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES WOULD ENSUE FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE. THIS TOUGH TALK, FAHMY IS CONVINCED, IS WHAT SAVED THE SITUATION.

- 3. ODDLY, FAHMY WAS NOT AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR HAD SIGNED ANTI-GOE STATEMENT TOGETHER WITH OTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS IN MADRID. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THIS SHOULD PROVE TRUE, OBVIOUSLY ABD AL-GHAFFAR DID SO UNDER DURESS AND HIS SIGNATURE IS MEANINGLESS.
- 4. COMMENT: FAHMY'S MODESTY IS ONE OF HIS MORE BECOMING QUALITIES. $\operatorname{\sc Eilts}$

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Subject: FAHMY VERSION OF MADRID INCIDENT

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, (FAHMY, ISMAIL)
To: STATE

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